



September 8, 2003

A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Soil Moisture Supplies Improve with Recent Rain

September 7- Weather across the State last week included cooler temperatures and a few isolated showers. The Southeast district received the most precipitation with 2.17 inches while the West Central district received no rainfall. Even with the recent rainfall the rains were too little, too late to benefit the crops that were hardest hit by the drought. Corn, sorghum, and soybean harvest continued to progress in portions of the State. Wheat planting advanced on a broader scale as fields dried out to allow for field activities. Producers were also busy preparing seedbeds and applying fertilizer for fall planting. All districts average temperature dropped from a week ago and averaged a maximum temperature of less than 85 degrees. Soil moisture supplies made significant improvement with the recent rainfall and were rated as mostly short to adequate. Farmers had 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	10	21	66	3
Last Week	41	33	22	4
Last Year	16	34	49	1

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	19	38	43	0
Last Week	35	46	18	1
Last Year	19	42	39	0

Small Grains: Improved soil moisture conditions have assisted producers in preparing land for next season's small grain crops. At week's end, 67 percent of the wheat ground had been prepared for seeding, slightly behind the normal pace. Wheat seeding picked up pace during the week and 7 percent of the State's intended acreage had been planted. More rainfall will be needed in most areas for full-scale small grain planting to begin.

Row Crops: Much of the row crop acreage has benefitted from the recent cooler temperatures and isolated rainfall. However, the moisture will be too late to significantly improve many crops before they are harvested. Corn harvest gained momentum to 36 percent harvested while sorghum and soybeans were at 14 and 8 percent harvested, respectively. Thirty-two percent of the sorghum acreage had reached maturity. The State's soybean crop greatly needed the moisture as plants continued to fill pods in certain areas. At week's end, 55 percent of the peanuts were mature with harvest yet to begin. The cotton crop remained in mostly fair to good condition with 43 percent opening bolls.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending September 7, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	3	17	34	46
Sorghum	5	36	31	28	0
Soybeans	9	19	40	30	2
Peanuts	0	10	42	42	6
Cotton	4	12	42	35	7

Hay: Both alfalfa and other hay were rated in mostly fair to good condition. Many livestock producers are still concerned about hay supplies heading into the fall season. The fourth cutting of alfalfa jumped to 63 percent cut. The second cutting of other hay gained 3 percentage points to 71 percent cut.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending September 7, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	4	16	46	30	4
Other Hay	7	22	41	27	3

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions ranged from poor to good condition. Range and pasture conditions have improved in those areas that have received ample amounts of rainfall. This improvement has allowed some producers to reduce the amount of supplement feeding.

Livestock: Livestock conditions were rated mostly fair to good. Livestock insect activities were rated as light to moderate. Cattle auctions remained at record high prices. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds increased from last week by one dollar and sixty-seven cents per cwt. and averaged \$101.33 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds also increased from last week by twenty-nine cents per cwt. and averaged \$93.65 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending September 7, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	4	32	48	16
Pasture & Range	8	26	39	26	1

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
Week Ending September 7, 2003									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Seedbed Prepared	67	52	77	69	Blooming	94	93	96	93
Planted	7	1	11	6	Setting Pods	89	82	93	85
Rye -					Mature	29	18	35	33
Seedbed Prepared	67	46	77	65	Harvested	8	5	15	12
Planted	19	2	17	8	Peanuts -				
Oats -					Mature	55	37	39	24
Seedbed Prepared	48	40	67	58	Cotton -				
Corn -					Setting Bolls	99	95	99	100
Mature	59	47	73	64	Bolls Opening	43	23	32	33
Harvested	36	32	44	36	Alfalfa -				
Sorghum -					4 th Cutting	63	51	78	58
Headed	90	85	90	91	5 th Cutting	2	n/a	12	9
Coloring	67	51	68	65	Other Hay -				
Mature	32	23	48	29	2 nd Cutting	71	68	81	57
Harvested	14	8	26	13					

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 50 degrees at Beaver on Tuesday, September 2nd to 91 degrees at Antlers on Thursday, September 4th. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. West Central district to 2.17 in. Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 62 degrees at Woodward on Monday, September 1st to 82 degrees at Idabel on Monday, September 1st and at Erick, Sulphur, and Tipton on Saturday, September, 6th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending September 7, 2003							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	September 1, 2003 to September 7, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	83	58	70	0.31	0.31	- 0.13	70
West Central	83	60	71	0.00	0.00	- 0.70	0
Southwest	83	63	72	0.04	0.04	- 0.75	5
North Central	82	60	70	0.01	0.01	- 0.72	1
Central	82	62	71	0.36	0.36	- 0.60	37
South Central	82	64	72	1.23	1.23	+ 0.21	121
Northeast	79	60	69	0.96	0.96	- 0.15	87
East Central	80	62	71	1.71	1.71	+ 0.55	148
Southeast	82	62	72	2.17	2.17	+ 1.10	203